

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12  
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INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY MASERU  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1540

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT BC SF WA  
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MINEXTAFF MOGWE: NAMIBIA AND BOPHUTHATSWANA

REF: GABORONE 1535

1. SUMMARY. MINISTER MOGWE, ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY PERMSEC MOGAMI, RECEIVED DCM AND ME JULY 11 FOR HOUR'S TALK WHICH CENTERED ON OAU SUMMIT (REFTEL). MOGWE TOUCHED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN NAMIBIA AND BOPHUTHATSWANA. ON FORMER, HE REVEALED A LACK OF INFORMATION BUT COMMENTED DERISIVELY ON NUJOMA. RE BOPHUTHATSWANA, MOGWE EXPRESSED BELIEF SOUTH AFRICA IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO GRANTING "INDEPENDENCE" BUT THAT SAG WILL TAKE CARE TO AVOID THE KIND OF PROBLEMS CREATED BY TRANSKAI. END SUMMARY.

2. NAMIBIA. MOGWE SAID HE HAD NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY  
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TO READ ANYTHING ON THE SUBJECT SINCE HIS RETURN BUT RE-AFFIRMED GOB'S DETERMINATION TO SUPPORT ALL EFFORTS TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT PROVIDED SWAPO'S DEMANDS WERE MET FOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS, WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES, ETC. IN RESPONSE TO MY COMMENT ABOUT DIFFICULTY OF COMMUNICATING WITH SWAPO LEADERS, MOGWE DOUBTED BOTSWANA COULD BE OF MUCH HELP.

WITH A SMILE, HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD IT HAD TAKEN CONCERTED EFFORTS BY FIVE CONTACT GROUP GOVERNMENTS OVER ONE WEEK TO FIND NUJOMA. FRANKLY, MOGWE ADDED, NUJOMA STRUCK HIM AS A FRONT MAN OR FIGUREHEAD, SOMEONE WHO WOULD PROBABLY BE OF LITTLE ACCOUNT IN A FUTURE INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA. THIS WAS DUE, IN MOGWE'S OPINION, TO NUJOMA'S INDECISIVENESS; HE IS SO UNSURE OF HIMSELF THAT HE "REFUSES TO ACT ON ANYTHING" WITHOUT INVOKING HIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. MOGWE SAID THERE WERE OTHER SWAPO MEMBERS MORE LIKELY TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE NEW COUNTRY. INVITED TO SAY WHO THEY MIGHT BE, MOGWE AT FIRST DISCLAIMED KNOWING SWAPO CADRES BUT THEN MENTIONED A MR. TAIVO AS SOMEONE OF PROMISE. (MOGAMI SAID HE WILL GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE MAN AND HIS WHEREABOUTS FROM THE MINISTER.) MOGWE SUGGESTED IF VORSTER WERE TRULY PREPARED TO HAND OVER INDEPENDENCE TO NAMIBIA HE SHOULD BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE PRIVATELY AND DISCREETLY BUT DIRECTLY WITH SWAPO. ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WOULD BE CONFIRMATION TO SWAPO OF SAG WILLINGNESS TO SEE A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE SUBSTITUTED FOR SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES DURING THE PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD.

3. BOPHUTHATSWANA. AT CONCLUSION OF OUR HOUR-LONG MEETING. I RAISED THE QUESTION OF BOPHUTHATSWANA AND HOW THE GOB SAW SITUATION EMERGING. MOGWE AND MOGAMI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCED DECISION OF THE USG NOT TO RECOGNIZE A SO-CALLED INDEPENDENT BOPHUTHATSWANA. CONFIDENTIAL

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AS TO PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF TRANSIT BETWEEN BOTSWANA AND SOUTH AFRICA AFTER SAG CONFERS "INDEPENDENCE", MOGWE SAID HE THOUGHT THE SAG HAD BEEN "BADLY BURNED" ON TRANSKEI, WITH LESOTHO TAKING CASE TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. HE FELT SAG WOULD NOT REPEAT THE SAME CONFRONTATION TACTICS ON BOPHUTHATSWANA. ONE WAY FOR SAG TO GET AROUND THE PROBLEM, HE SUGGESTED, MIGHT BE FOR SAG TO TRACE THE HOMELAND'S BORDERS SO THAT MAIN ROADS AND RAILROAD WOULD REMAIN WITHIN SAG TERRITORY. MOGAMI SAID GOB POLICY WILL BE TO TRAVEL AND CONDUCT BUSINESS EXACTLY AS BEFORE AND DEAL WITH PROBLEMS IF AND WHEN "BOPHUTHATSWANA" DECIDES TO CREATE THEM. NORLAND

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## Message Attributes

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